

Message Text

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CU FOR RONHOVDE PLEASE PASS IREX NEW YORK.

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GE, US

SUBJECT: IREX PROBLEMS IN THE GDR.

REF: BERLIN 6629

1. PRESS & CULTURE OFFICER (PCO) MADE INITIAL CALL ON MFA
CULTURAL HEAD BETTIN AND RAISED THREE MATTERS: CONTINUING
IREX DIFFICULTIES, STATUS OF BOOK DONATION TO HUMBOLDT
UNIVERSITY AND VISIT OF FOUR US CARDIOLOGISTS.
LATTER TWO MATTERS WILL BE
REPORTED IN SEPTELS.

2. PCO DESCRIBED IN DETAIL ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY TWO
IREX SCHOLARS SPIDLE AND HERWIG. WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON NEW
TURN FACED BY LATTER. THE HERWIGS, NOW IN BERLIN APART-
MENT, HAVE TRIED TO FIND OWN HOUSING IN POTSDAM IN ORDER TO BE
CLOSE TO CENTRAL STATE ARCHIVES WHICH CONTAINS SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS
NEEDED BY HIM, AND SPIDLE TOO. TOLD NO SPACE AVAILABLE
UNTIL DECEMBER , WHEN HIS GRANT EXPIRES, HERWIG DISCUSSED WITH
ARCHIVES OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY TRANSFERRING
MATERIALS, ALL ON MICROFILM, TO HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY, WHICH HAS
BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE AND READY MEET ALL REQUESTS.
ARCHIVES OFFICIALS REFUSED FLATLY TRANSFER MATERIALS ANDWHEN
SHOWN IREX AGREEMENT REPLIED DDR AND MINISTRY HIGHER
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EDUCATION NEVERSHOULD HAVE SIGNED SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. PCO POLITELY BUT FIRMLY DESCRIBED SUCH AN ATTITUDE AS CONTRARY SPIRIT AND LETTER OF AGREEMENT AND INIMICAL TO DEVELOPMENT CULTURAL RELATIONS, ADDING THAT BOTH SCHOLARS NOW PARALYSED OR AT BEST SERIOUSLY HINDERED FROM CONDUCTING RESEARCH WHICH DEFINITELY NOT SENSITIVE. BERLIN-POTSDAM 80 MILE ROUND TRIP TAKES THREE HOURS BY CAR OVER POOR, SOON DANGEROUS ICY ROADS, AND FIVE HOURS BY TRAIN CREATING ADDITIONAL HARDSHIPS, PCO STRESSED,

IN CONTRAST TO DDR SCHOLARS WHO TREATED GENEROUSLY IN US WITH WELL-EQUIPPED LIVING QUARTERS, AND FULL ACCESS TO RESOURCES. CULTURAL EXCHANGE IS A TWO-WAY STREET BUT SO FAR TRAFFIC BORDERS ON EINHAHBBSTRASSE PCO SAID, AND UNLESS RAPID CHANGES MADE SOON, FUTURE OF IREX PROGRAM IN DDR DIM. CONCLUDED BY ASKING FOR DRAMATIC CUTTING OF BUREAUCRATIC GORDIAN KNOT.

4. BETTIN CLEARLY DISCOMFITED BY PRESENTATION, RECORDED INCIDENTALLY IN DETAIL BY NOTETAKER. BEGAN REPLY WITH REFERENCE TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT AS GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DDR'S RELATIONS WITH CAPITALIST NATION, ESPECIALLY USA, AND HOPED IREX PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE. SAID KASSOFF AND MATTHEWS SHOULD COME SOON RENEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENT AND HOPED PCO WOULD SUPPORT PROGRAM. BETTIN SAID PCO'S BACKGROUND IN EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WELL-KNOWN TO MFA AND FACT OF COMING TO BETTIN WITH SUCH PROBLEMS INDICATED KNOWLEDGE OF DDR SYSTEM. PCO'S EXPERIENCE IN HUNGARY, BETTIN CONTINUED, WHILE USEFUL, COULD NOT ILLUMINATE DDR PROCEDURES WHICH VARY SHARPLY. ALTHOUGH IREX AGREEMENT ADMINISTERED BY MINHIGHED, AND MFA CONTROLS, BETTIN SAID, POTSDAM ARCHIVES UNDER ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, "ABOUT WHICH NONE OF US IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY. IN FACT, NOBODY TELLS THAT MINISTRY HOW TO RUN ITS BUSINESS. IT IS COMPLETELY AUTONOMOUS."

5. BETTIN DESCRIBED HIMSELF AND KINDZORRA OF MINHIGHED AS BEING IMPOTENT IN THE POTSDAM ARCHIVES QUESTION BUT THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH KINDZORRA ON HOUSING EITHER IN POTSDAM OR BERLIN. (FYI: - PRESENTLY, HERWIG, IS IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARELY ADEQUATE, PHONE-OUT-OF-ORDER APARTMENT, WHILE SPIDLE HAS NOTHING AND COMMUTES TO PASSAU IN THE FRG WHERE HIS FAMILY IS WAITING- END FYI).

6. BETTIN THEN SAID THERE WAS ONE OVERALL SOLUTION TO ALL OF THESE AND FUTURE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE, NAMELY THE SIGNING OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USA AND DDR. IN THAT EVENT, BETTIN EXPLAINED, NOTHING WOULD BE

LEFT TO CHANCE OR MISUNDERSTANDING BECAUSE EVERYTHING
WOULD BE IN BLACK AND WHITE AND SPELLED OUT, " AND THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY'S CULTURAL ATTACHE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
CULTURAL CHIEF WOULD NOT HAVE TO SPEND VALUABLE TIME
IN DISCUSSING SUCH MATTERS AS RAISED TODAY." BETTIN WAITED
FOR A REACTION AND RECEIVING NONE ATALL ADDED THAT IN-
SO FAR AS CUTTING THE GORDIAN KNOT WAS CONCERNED, " WE
COULD NOT POSSIBLE EQUAL THE SUCCESS OF YOUR FOREBEAR
ALEXANDER THE GREAT." ON THIS GRECIAN NOTE THE ONE
HOUR MEETING ENDED WIH AGREEMENT ON THE URGENT NEED FOR A
RAPID SOLUTION.
COOPER

NOTE BY OC/T: BERLIN 6655 NOT PASSED IREX NEW YORK.

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